

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0139

NOFORN

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LU, TW

SUBJECT: ROC'S UNOFFICIAL RELATIONS

REF: STATE 031454

1. THE NATIONALIST CHINESE GOVERNMENT IS REPRESENTED IN LUXEMBOURG BY THE "DR. SUN YAT-SET CENTER." LOCATED IN A SMALL OFFICE IN A NEW 4-STORY BUILDING IN AN ALMOST PURELY RESIDENTIAL AREA, THE CENTER MAINTAINS AN EXTREMELY LOW PROFILE.

2. HEADED BY SHIH KE-TING, A CAREER DIPLOMAT, THE CENTER HAS ONE OTHER CHINESE OFFICER AND ONE LOCAL NATIONAL SECRETARY. MR. SHIH AND HIS WIFE BOTH SPEAK FLUENT FRENCH, HAVING BEEN PREVIOUSLY POSTED TO PARIS AND BRUSSELS. MR. SHIH SPEAKS ADEQUATE ENGLISH. BOTH WERE BORN ON THE MAINLAND AND HAVE LIVED ON TAIWAN VERY RARELY. THEIR SON IS ATTENDING UNIVERSITY IN THE UNITED STATES. THE JUNIOR OFFICER, MR. YUE CHING-LEW IS SERVING ON HIS FIRST OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENT.

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3. THE SUN YAT-SEN CENTER IS NOT A CONVERTED DIPLOMATIC MISSION AS THE ROC NEVER HAD AN EMBASSY HERE. THEIR FORMER AMBASSADOR IN BRUSSELS WAS ALSO ACCREDITED TO LUXEMBOURG. LUXEMBOURG AND THE ROC HAVE NEVER BROKEN RELATIONS OFFICIALLY, BUT THE ROC SUSPENDED DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION WHEN THE GOL ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PRC (WHOSE AMBASSADOR IN BRUSSELS IS NOW ACCREDITED TO LUXEMBOURG).

4. GIVEN THE MINISCULE ROC COMMUNITY HERE (LESS THAN A DOZEN ADULTS), NEGLIGIBLE TRADE BETWEEN THE ROC AND LUXEMBOURG, AND THE ALMOST NON-EXISTENT VISA DEMAND, THE CENTER'S MAIN PURPOSE SEEMS TO BE TO MAINTAIN A PRESENCE IN LUXEMBOURG AND VIS-A-VIS THE EEC INSTITUTIONS LOCATED HERE.

5. COMMENT: MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR INFORMS US THAT LUXEMBOURG PERMITTED THE SUN YAT-SEN CENTER TO BE ESTABLISHED AS A PURELY PRIVATE ASSOCIATION UNDER LUXEMBOURG LAWS. HOWEVER, THE GOL FROM THE BEGINNING HAS LIMITED THE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL IN THE CENTER TO TWO OFFICIALS AND HAS STUCK TO THIS DECISION IN SPITE OF REPEATED REQUESTS FROM MR. SHIH TO BRING IN ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL. ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE PRIME MINISTER, GOL OFFICIALS AVOID OFFICIAL CONTACT WITH THE CENTER'S PERSONNEL, AND DO NOT ATTEND RECEPTIONS OR CULTURAL EVENTS GIVEN AT THE CENTER; ALTHOUGH, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, SHIH HAS NEVER REQUESTED CONTACTS WITH MFA OFFICIALS. SHIH IS FAIRLY ACTIVE, HOWEVER, IN MAINTAINING CONTACT WITH INFLUENTIAL LUXEMBOURGERS AND HAS SENT AT LEAST ONE, REV. HEIDERSCHIED, THE EDITOR OF THE CHRISTIAN-SOCIAL LUXEMBOURG DAILY NEWSPAPER, THE WORT, ON A ROC-SPONSORED VISIT TO TAIWAN. PHILLIPS

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